

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the study

Learning English is what people do when they want to learn how to speak and understand the English language. People learning English often learn to read and write English at the same time. A lot of people learn English at school, where English is a common subject. Many people also want to spend their own personal time to learn English. Some of these people may not know any English, where others will have learned some English in school, and will want to advance their knowledge of it.

There are four main skills in English, they are speaking, listening, writing and reading. Being one of the four language skills, reading has an important objective. Reading is one aspect of English. Reading is one of the four skills which is viewed as the most important language skill that should be developed in the classroom. Moreover, reading empowers the mind and expands the students understanding of the world around them. Besides, the insertion of culture through reading is also considered as an important point since the material will be contextual and it can activate the students prior knowledge.

According to Pang *et al.* (2003:6), learning to read is an important educational goal for children and adults because the ability to read opens up new worlds and opportunities. It enables students to gain new knowledge, enjoy literature, and do everyday things that are part and parcel of modern life, such as,

reading the newspapers, job listings, instruction manuals, maps, and so on. It is certainly not easy to present the English reading to Indonesian students whose language system is different. Reading in their own language is much easier than that of the language learned because they have mastered the vocabulary and the structure of their own. As reading plays an important role in language learning, it would be better that this teaching is wisely done. To understand a text students must have a good command of the vocabulary of the target language. The reader uses knowledge, skills and strategies to determine what the text meaning is.

The definitions of reading above can be concluded that reading is one of skills in English which is needed in the process to interpretation of graphic symbols and written symbols. Paulston & Brader in Sullivan (2012) states that reading materials which are suitable the needs of learners would be easier for them to achieve the learning purposes. Texts which are recognizable to students in terms of content can help them overcome any reading comprehension difficulties, they may encounter with less common vocabulary and with words specific only to the subject presented.

In fact, the abomination of learning English is reading a text or a passage. Most of students are too lazy to comprehend a text through having a reading activity. A long text or passage makes them so bored to read; furthermore, the topic is not interesting for them; it is not related to their environment/major. The students in the tenth grade of vocational must learn about several kinds of texts like narrative, recount, and descriptive text. By learning a descriptive text, students will get knowledge about how a descriptive texts look like.

Based on the preliminary data, the researcher find that the reading materials of descriptive text are not specified for their major namely computer network engineering. The materials are given focus on the grammar, exercise without covering the specific needs student of computer network engineering. The text reading of descriptive seem irrelevant to the competency standard because the existing reading materials do not relate to the students' need. Here is one of irrelevant descriptive text:

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK

Tanjung puting national park is an internationally famous ecotourism destination, which is located in the southwest of central kalimantan peninsula. visitors from foreign countries come to this park because of its amazing nature. this is called a park, but unlike any park that you have seen in your city, this is a jungle! it is a real jungle, which is home to the most interesting animal in the world: orangutans. Though the park is home to many animals, seeing orangutans is usually the visitor's main reason to visit the park. orangutan which literally mean the man of the forest, are the largest arboreal animal on the planet. most of their lives are spent in trees where orangutans travel from branch to branch by climbing or swinging with their long arms. To see orangutans, we should go to camp leakey, which is located in the heart of tanjung puting national park. camp leakey is a rehabilitation place for ex-captive orang utans and also a preservation site. it is a also famous center for research about orang utans which has been conducted by the famous primatologist Dr. Birute Galdikas since 1971. Here visitors can see daily feedings to orangutans at jungle platforms as part of the rehabilitation process to their natural habitat. this event gives them opportunity to see orang utans up close. To reach the place, we should take a boat down sekonyer river. the boat is populary called perahu klotok which is a boathouse that can accomodate four people. the trip by the boat to camp leakey takes three days and two nights. you sleep, cook, and eat in that klotok, night and day during your journey into the jungle. The traveling in the boat offers an unforgettable experience. in daylight, on your way to camp leakey, you can see trees filled with proboscis monkeys, monkeys that have enormous snout which can only be found in kalimantan. the monkeys anxiously await klotok arrivals. a troop of 30 light-brown monkeys may plunge from branches 10 meters or higher into the rives and cross directly in front of the boat. these monkeys know

that the boat's engine noise and the threat of its propeller scare crocodiles, which find these chubby monkeys delicious. at night, you can enjoy the clear sky and the amazingly bright stars as the only lights for the night. With such exotic nature, no wonder many tourists from foreign countries who loved ecotourism frequently visit tanjung puting national park. what about you?

This text seem inappropriate to the competency standard for the students computer network engineering. The text is too general for the students. According to Hutchinson and Waters (1987:8) that to improve the learners' motivation and make learning better and faster, the teachers should prepare materials which are relevant to the students' need and interest. In addition for ESP teachers, the selection extends the use of what is available. Sometimes, they need to adapt or looking for the materials in order to help ESP students achieve their aims. Further, if associated with theory of authentic materials, the existing materials, particularly reading materials in teaching- learning process essentially should give the real information or situation related to the students' field because authentic materials are important tools for use in ESP classes, they motivate and immerse learners in specific areas of the target language in which practice is needed. Beside that, choosing the reading material of computer network engineering should also concern to the language features (the sentence pattern, the technical vocabularies and the functional words), the level difficulties and the kinds of genre should be learned.

Therefore, this research focus on descriptive reading materials of English for students of computer network engineering. If the existing reading materials are not suitable with syllabus and relevant to the computer network engineering students' needs, developing reading materials of descriptive text are really required. The

development of reading materials of descriptive text will use Authenticity - Centred Approach (ACA). According to Mishan (2005), authenticity centred approach is materials - centred and upholds the importance of materials design not only as a professional skill applied by course book writers, but it is like used by individual teaching contexts. Simply, authenticity - centred approach is defined as a teaching approach which focuses on the materials, in this case authentic materials. The teacher gives an authentic text of descriptive text to the students in teaching learning process.

1.2 The Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the study, the research problem is formulated as the following: How are the suitable English reading materials for the tenth grade students of computer network engineering in SMK YAPIM 1 Medan through ACA?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

The objective of this research is to develop English reading materials through ACA

1.4 The Scope of The Study

This research will be focused on English reading materials in descriptive text which are relevant for students of computer network engineering in SMK YAPIM 1 Medan through ACA.

1.5 The Significance of The Study

The findings of this research will be expected to be significant and relevant theoretically and practically.

a. Theoritically

The findings are expected to develop the state of art of reading material of descriptive text through ACA. The materials are expected to provide a good reference and useful in developing the knowledge and science.

b. Practically

This research is a conceptual contribution to

1. The findings are expected to be used as inputs for the teachers, administrators, developers and educational institution in implement and select appropriate English reading materials of descriptive text for their students.
2. The students' descriptive text to improve their ability in English and to master English that they need
3. The researcher in term of promoting and exploring relevant materials to be thought and references in relevant study